

INTELDEFAX 25X1A

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

Approved For Release 2001/03/17 : CIA-RDP82-00457R004500520009-0

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

DATE DISTR 27 MAR 50

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Position of Minority Parties in the Chinese
Communist Government

25X1C

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF
INFO.

25X1X

1. Non-Communist officials in important governmental posts both in Peiping and in the provinces are actually serving in only an advisory capacity. They are permitted to attend staff meetings and to offer advice on policy formulation. Where their recommendations are in accord with the general policy lines of the Chinese Communist Party, they are accepted; otherwise, their advice is heard politely, and not followed. Such persons are not given any part in the execution of policies unless they have some particular technical skill which the CCP cannot find among its own members. These officials are becoming discontented over their lack of authority.
2. Within the past month, Marshal LI Chi-shen sent an emissary to visit his son, who is dean of the College of Agriculture at Lingnan University. Dean LI was told by his father that China is in the grip of powerful forces which cannot be resisted at the present time; thus, he should go with the tide and wait for the future. Prior to the receipt of this message, Dean LI had been very active in political discussions with former associates of his father and with his academic colleagues. In this he openly sought means to make coalition government work in such a way that minority groups could make a really constructive effort in the national interest. Since the arrival of his father's messengers, Dean LI has confined himself to his academic duties and has refused to discuss political matters with anyone.
3. The non-Communist vice-mayor of Canton, LI Chang-ta (李章達), is privately complaining to his friends that he is not consulted on important decisions involving the municipality. The same is true of LI Min-ch'in (李民欣), member of the Provincial Government Supervisory Committee.
4. The noted Chinese sociologist FEI Hsiao-t'ung writes in a very guarded fashion from Peiping that the Communists are not making adequate use of the non-Communists attempting to serve in the coalition government. The Communists consider long-time membership in the Party more important than technical qualifications or patriotism.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.	228
No Change to Class.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth:	HR 702
Date:	3/24/78
By:	008

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